

Life in Roman Times

Introduction:

The focus of this project is to help students gain an understanding of the Roman lifestyle—what did they wear, eat, and do for fun? Where did they live, work, and relax? What were the common customs and traditions, religious beliefs, and culture like? Students will participate in activities that will teach them about various aspects of Roman life.

Website Resources:

Life in Roman Times: www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/life.html

This is the main website you will use and navigate on pbs.org.

Additional websites:

www.roman-empire.net/society/society.html

Roman Society, Roman Life; scroll down thru the topics to find info for your group

<http://www.helium.com/items/1268268-marriage-customs-of-ancient-rome>

Marriage customs, family life

<http://ancienthistory.about.com/od/familyanddailylife/p/RomanFamily.htm>

About.com site with info on family life

<http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/nettsch/time/rlife.html>

Elementary website with info on education, Roman numerals, & family life

<http://www.crystalinks.com/romefamily.html>

Family & marriage source

http://www.mce.k12tn.net/ancient_rome/facts.htm

Check out the links on the left side of the page with links to assignment topics

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/romans/>

Check out leisure, family & children, and religion among others

<http://www.crystalinks.com/romeducation.html>

Education

Research Categories

Statements/comments below the group names are simply IDEAS to help get your group started researching.

Group 1: Games; gladiator and chariot races, holidays, and entertainment

- What traditional games did Roman's play?
- What were the major Roman holidays? How did they celebrate holidays?
- Discuss the different types of gladiatorial games & chariot races.

Group 2: Baths/Aqueducts and Bath Rituals

- Create a large map or diagram of the public baths and describe what is contained in each different room and how it was used.
- What did servants or slaves working at the baths do?
- Describe the typical sights and sound of the bath rituals and how to use the baths.

Group 3: Family Life

- Describe mealtime and Roman family life.
- What social classes existed in Rome?
- How did mealtime differ between the social classes?
- Explain the rights of men and women in a family and how children were typically viewed and treated.

Group 4: Weddings, marriages, and divorce

- What are some of the traditional wedding garments?
- Explain the "business dealings" of arranging a marriage and a proper dowry between two families.
- Describe a typical wedding ceremony, common customs and traditions associated with the ceremony.

Group 5: Housing and food and mealtime customs for the various classes

- Describe traditional Roman foods and explain which meal the food would have been eaten at and by which social class.
- What would have been eaten and what are the customs surrounding the meal?
- What did Roman homes look like? Which social class would occupy each type of home?
- Include the "modern" amenities that each home provided.

Group 6: Education, funeral, and theatre

- What was ancient Roman education like?
- What are the Roman numerals?
- Explain what would happen in a typical family after the death of a loved one.
- Describe Roman theatre.
- Other ideas?

Adapted from a Lesson Plan off P.B.S.

The questions above are STARTERS to get your group thinking about your topic!